



ANDERSON BRULÉ ARCHITECTS

SUNNYVALE CIVIC CENTER MODERNIZATION
Site and Recreation Focus Group

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2015 **REGARDING:** Meeting Minutes
MEETING TIME: 8:30 AM – 10 AM **ABA PROJECT #:** 14-1201-1
LOCATION: Garden Conference Room
ATTENDEES: Aimee Jeska, RHAA
Dan Wax, Recreation Superintendent
Jacob Millard, RHAA
Katherine Rivard, ABA
Kent Steffens, Assistant City Manager
Lisa Rosenblum, Director of Library and Community Services
Manuela King, RHAA
Manuel Pineda, Director of Public Works
Scott Mortor, Parks Superintendent

CONTEXT: Sunnyvale Civic Center

PURPOSE: Needs Assessment, Park & Recreation Focus Group Meeting

INTENDED RESULTS: Input from city staff regarding site needs, opportunities, and issues

MEETING MINUTES

I. Meeting introduction

- A. Introduction of participants
- B. Summarize goals & objectives of meeting & project
- C. Summary of results of 4/25/15 Community Meeting discussion
 - 1. City's assessment of current land Use
 - a) 40% Landscape, 41% Parking, 16% Buildings, 3% Usable Open Space
 - b) 3-5 acres of turf
 - 2. Community resistance to elevated parking structures
 - 3. Community preference for community garden.
 - 4. Community strongly values existing trees.
 - 5. Young families were not represented at community meeting.

I. Current Site Use Discussion

- A. Library Plaza has small events / people sitting. The space is not rentable.
- B. The City Center has limited events throughout the year (State of the City, etc.).
- C. Proposed programming should not compete with other city events (downtown farmer's market, Community Center events, Art & Wine Festival, music on Murphy Ave, etc)
- D. Civic events are welcome, but currently money is not available in the budget to coordinate programming
- E. Passive gathering spaces would be preferred

II. Site Opportunities Discussion

- A. Increased open space

1. Closing Olive Street to create more open space
 2. Usable, contiguous open space(s)
 3. Plazas & gathering areas adjacent to buildings that support programming
 4. Community areas
 5. Flexible spaces
 6. Smaller gathering spaces
 7. Support all ages
 8. Design for weekend activity & crime prevention
 9. Low maintenance
- B. Programming Opportunities
1. Garden space (teen garden) adjacent to library
 2. Secure outdoor play area connected to library
 3. Open space that supports learning adjacent to library
 4. Drought tolerant demonstration garden
 5. Playground
 6. Passive recreation spaces
 7. Picnic area
 8. Outdoor meeting spaces
 9. Café
 10. Multi-Purpose play fields
 11. Volleyball
 12. Informal amphitheater
 13. Frisbee
 14. Soccer
 15. Bocce Ball
 16. Walking path
 17. Water play (current water play elements in other city parks are very popular)
 18. Reduce turf area
 19. Interactive features for play
- C. Other site opportunities
1. Create buffers between office spaces
 2. Low maintenance, high-value quality products
 3. Avoid too much concrete (e.g. Plaza Del Sol)
 4. No Pool
- D. Parking & Parking Structures
1. Parking structure increases potential for open space
 2. Underground parking may be prohibitively expensive
 3. Any parking structure should be designed for natural ventilation to reduce operational costs
 4. Green roof over parking structure, integrated into adjacent landscape could mitigate presence of a large structure.
 5. Campus design should allow for future development (a parking lot was identified as an appropriate placeholder for future development)
- E. Public Art
1. Arts Commission (1% for art in public spaces). Prefer site integrated art.

III. Existing Trees & Landscape

- A. Large unused areas of turf require significant amount of water.
- B. Keep as many trees as possible. Community strongly values existing trees
- C. Some trees have higher perceptual value than other trees (large Oaks, Redwoods, etc)
- D. Tree count may be a critical issue. If trees are to be removed, new trees should be planted to maintain existing tree count
- E. Memorial cherry trees by Public Safety Building may need to be relocated.

- F. No reclaimed water is currently available. Potable reuse of grey/black water in planning stage, 10-15 years out.
- G. Tree Inventory is being conducted by Bartlett.
- H. Maintenance issues
 - 1. Some Canary Island Pine & Redwoods have been planted too close to building and create a maintenance issue.
 - 2. Diseased Tulip trees and damaged Magnolias.

IV. Community Garden Discussion

- A. Only community garden in city (at capacity, currently a waitlist for individual plots)
- B. Current location creates a valued buffer between civic center and residential community.
- C. Gardener's are concerned about shade from buildings and trees. Site improvements may need to include sun-shade studies.
- D. Currently location is only area on site next to single family residential
- E. Locating it on a structure is not advisable.
- F. Overall agreement to leave community garden in current location

V. Other successful local civic spaces

- A. Washington Park & Pool
- B. Mitchell Park & Magical Bridge Playground (all-inclusive playground)
- C. Menlo Park Community Center
- D. Mountain View Civic Center
- E. Seven Sea's Playground (low water use planting)

The above minutes reflect ABA's understanding of issues and assignments discussed at the meeting. Unless ABA is notified in writing of any discrepancies, the minutes will be considered an accurate record of the issues and assignments. Minutes produced from this meeting will be distributed for review and comment. If no written comments are received, the minutes will stand as the record of the conversations and directions given at the meeting.